sufficiently traveled after exiting the detection area so as to have substantially no influence on the period of the oscillator signal by

(i) determining the speed of a said vehicle and

(ii) calculating the time after vehicle exit based upon the vehicle speed and a predetermined distance from said detection area at which vehicle travel will not influence said period;

producing a sample measurement value at the calculated time after vehicle exiting;

comparing a said reference value and the sample measurement value; and

adjusting the reference value, based upon the comparison.

9. (Twice Amended) A method for identifying changes in measured inductance of an inductive sensor used with a vehicle detector, which inductive sensor changes inductance in response to presence of a said vehicle, but which identified changes are determined not to be caused by vehicles, and are, therefore, caused by mechanical difficulties requiring maintenance, the method comprising:

measuring inductance of the inductive sensor over a plurality of measurement frame segments;

calculating a time rate of change of inductance of the inductive sensor; and

identifying existence of mechanical difficulties when the time rate of change of inductance calculated is in a predetermined range outside a threshold rate of change associated with vehicular movement.